

Andrew Koff *et al.*
Appl. No. 10/038,060
Amdt. dated March 18, 2005
Reply to Office Communication of March 7, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in the above-identified application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite a "method for increasing the proliferation of thymocytes in a non-human animal." This amendment is made in response to an Office communication indicating Applicants' prior response filed January 31, 2005 was not fully responsive. The Examiner is of the opinion that the amended claim 1 as set forth in the January 31, 2005 response was independent or distinct from the invention as originally claimed. Although Applicants do not believe that the Examiner is correct in this assertion, but in order to further expedite prosecution of the application Applicants have amended the claim as set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 18 March 2005

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